

National Weather Service



MEDIA ADVISORY

2003-02

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Weather Spotting Classes to be Offered This Spring

Spotter training courses will be offered this spring. National Weather Service (NWS) personnel will travel to numerous Iowa counties and train Emergency Management Spotters along with NWS spotters and Amateur Radio Spotters. Spotter training courses are hosted by county emergency management coordinators, or designee's. The courses will be offered from mid February through early April.

In 2003, the Baseline Spotter Presentation has been updated with new material. The Baseline Spotter Presentation will be offered in most counties and is open to the general public. It is designed for a wide audience from beginners to experienced spotters and it is suitable for most spotters. An amateur radio representative will often accompany the instructor to answer questions about the central Iowa SKYWARN net. Class length is between 90 and 120 minutes.

An Advanced Spotter Training Presentation is being offered regionally this spring. This course is for those who have understanding of storm scale meteorology and are looking for a more in-depth presentation on mobile spotting techniques. The advanced course is not recommended to those with little or no storm scale meteorological experience. The regional advanced course will be offered in Creston on February 12th (south central Iowa), Mason City on March 6th (north central Iowa), and Ames on March 11th (central Iowa).

The spotter training schedule, and course outlines, can be found on the NWS, Des Moines, web site at www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/training.shtml . Be sure to check it often since it will be updated as classes are scheduled.

We look forward to seeing you at a spotter training class this spring!